

# MANIAC

shocker flick of  
psycho's kicks!

**I**t's a terror film that won't do a lot to help New York City's tourist trade!

A lunatic is stalking the city streets.

Scalpel in hand, he's chasing women and murdering them, brutally.

He's a sick man, and there appears to be no way to capture him, to stop him.

## maniac mania

MANIAC was filmed in New York City during the closing months of 1979. Shot in 16mm and blown up to 35mm (surprisingly, with little loss of picture clarity), it is a dark, grisly film which follows murderer Frank Zito (Joe Spinell) through his gruesome bloodletting spree. Directed by twenty-four year old William Lustig, it is going to be one of the most controversial films of the year.

There have been pictures showing explicit violence and gore, but MANIAC pushes this vividness farther than any previous film. In fact, in press releases, its producers have referred to it as providing, "the ultimate satisfaction to even the most hardened fans of horrific gore."

That's not difficult to believe--no idle boast!

After being ritually murdered and graphically scalped, each of the killer's random victims becomes part of his grisly collection.

A collection which out-shocks the corpses gathered by the human-hunter in THE MOST DANGEROUS GAME.

A collection of scalps, each victim's hair and clothes, which are carried by the maniac to his lair, and placed on mannequins which display these mementoes.

Director Lustig adds--though it should be obvious by now--"This is the ultimate popcorn and drive-in movie. It's a bloodbath and should be taken as





**Who but a MANIAC would celebrate Mother's Day this way?**

nothing else." However, Lustig makes a point of stating that MANIAC goes so far beyond anything ever before seen on the screen that it must almost be taken as tongue-in-cheek.

Or scalpel-in-scalp, as the case may be!

Executive producer Judd Hamilton (the husband of co-star Caroline Munro) adds, "No one approves of these things in real-life, and I don't believe that our picture encourages such activity. To the contrary, people will see this film and recognize just how sick people like the killer really are."

Robert Kaplan, who runs the company which is distributing MANIAC, has yet another point of view. He sees this picture as a breakthrough motion picture, bringing to cinemas the kind of movie making which has hitherto been restricted to underground and art theatres.

"The film is very avant-garde in its violent implications," Kaplan's partner Paul Cohen elaborates. "And because of this, we plan to promote the film as the artistic event that it is."



**With a MANIAC in back, there's no lack of horror, as this victim discovers moments before his death by strangulation.**

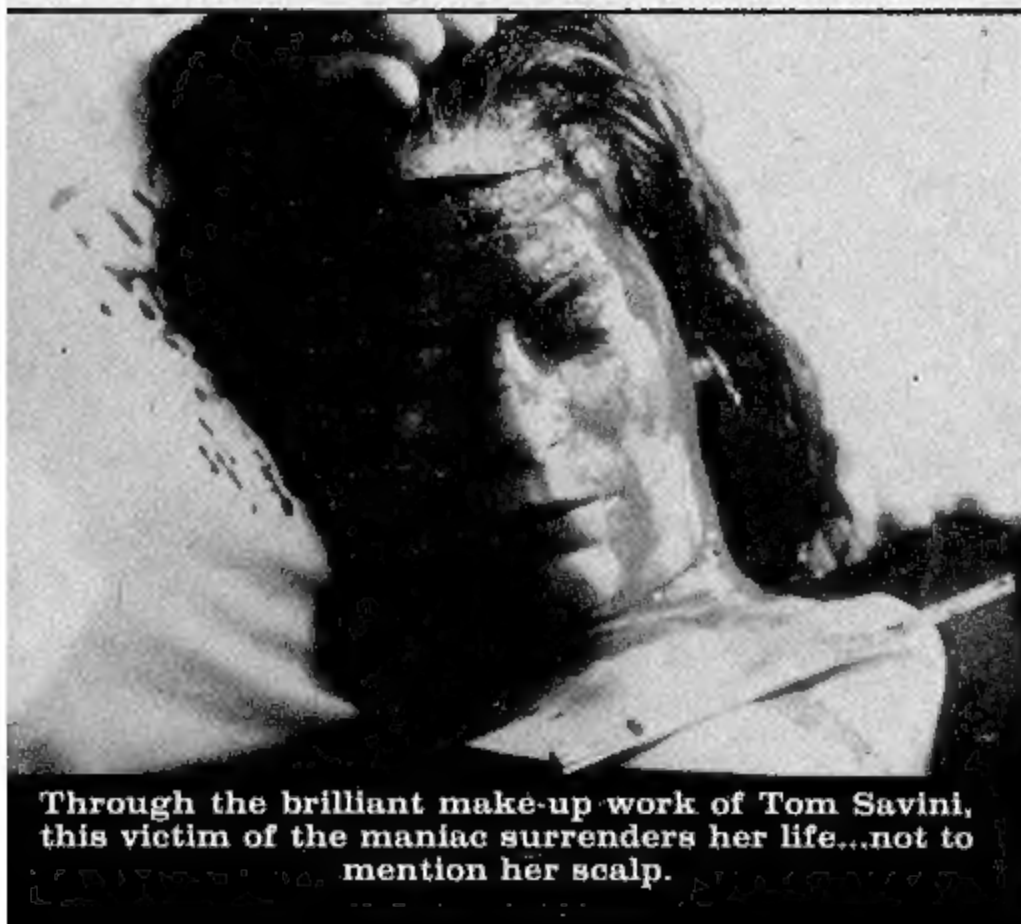




A lovely lady watches herself die at the strangling, mangling hands of the maniac, Frank Zito, chillingly played by Joe Spinell.



Popeye the Slayer Man (Joe Spinell, last seen as the would-be ruler of the universe in STARCRASH) wakes up with a start--only to find it's his finish!



Through the brilliant make-up work of Tom Savini, this victim of the maniac surrenders her life...not to mention her scalp.

## maniac's munro

Possibly the best-known personality involved with MANIAC is actress Caroline Munro.

Dubbed the Queen of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror, she has a striking list of credentials, gathered in the remarkable span of just a few years.

Queen Caroline has appeared in such successful films as--

THE GOLDEN VOYAGE OF SINBAD, as the enchanted and enchanting servant girl Margiana!

AT THE EARTH'S CORE!

CAPTAIN KRONOS!

THE ABOMINABLE DR. PHIBES!

THE SPY WHO LOVED ME, as the nefarious female foe of James Bond!

And of course the enormously successful STARCRASH, as the now-legendary space heroine Stella Star.

(Flash! Ms. Munro is about to appear in the STARCRASH sequel STAR PATROL, continuing the adventures of stunning Stella!)

In an interview with FM in London, the beautiful actress told us that MANIAC is a special, important film for her.

"Not only did Judd co-produce it--your readers will remember him as my robot sidekick in STARCRASH--but it's a modern-day part. I've appeared in many, many pictures set in exotic or past settings, so this was a welcome change for me.

"I enjoyed playing a photographer in the film, and I was able to approach the role as I approach life. In a very human, and very practical way. I'm a very emotional person, and I hope I conveyed some of that in the part of Anna D'Antoni."

Is it difficult acting in a film, no matter what the period, in which so much of its impact relies on special effects and makeup?

"Well," the actress confides, "I think it's an art, it's something you learn. A different kind of acting. Fortunately, I had one of the best teachers anyone can have, learning to act in fantasy films with fantastic settings. On GOLDEN VOYAGE OF SINBAD, Ray Harryhausen explained to me the subtleties of this kind of acting. I found out later, that my having worked with Ray, and learned from him how to react to special effects which wouldn't be added until months later, was one of the reasons I was offered the part of Stella Star."

## maniac's makers

Co-starring with Caroline Munro is an up-and-coming actor, producer, writer by the name of Joe Spinell.

Spinell plays the maniac--but he also serves as co-writer and as co-producer on the film.

As an actor, Spinell has appeared in no previous horror films, though his credits are impressive: they include ROCKY and ROCKY II, the GODFATHER films, TAXI DRIVER, BRUBAKER, and most recently THE FIRST



The creatures turn on their creator in the crimson climax of MANIAC.

**DEADLY SIN.** Hard on the heels of MANIAC, Spinell will be seen in HAWKS, starring his long-time friend Sylvester Stallone, and co-starring SF luminaries Lindsay Wagner (THE BIONIC WOMAN) and Persis Khambata (STAR TREK: THE MOTION PICTURE).

Behind-the-cameras, perhaps the most important contribution to the ninety-one minute film was made by Tom Savini.

Though Savini appears in the film as a dancer at a disco, his primary function was as director of special effects makeup.

Savini, like Caroline Munro, is no stranger to FM's readers.

Among the artist's many great films--  
**DAWN OF THE DEAD!**  
**FRIDAY THE 13th!**

And now, the most complex film of his career!

Unlike his previous works, which were more fantasy-oriented films, MANIAC offered the challenge of creating realistic bloodletting, on which the camera would linger long and closeup!

The two most vivid scenes in MANIAC are the scalping of one of the killer's victims, and the horrifying demise of the murderer.

The scalping was the simpler of the two, Savini maintains. A tube of blood was glued to the backside of the scalpel. As it cut along the actresses forehead, she appeared to bleed.

Of course, it wasn't actually the woman's head he was cutting, it was mortician's wax which Savini had used to create a false forehead.

As for the death of the maniac, actor Spinell had to be be-headed by his victims.

The living dead attack their killer and literally rip off his head!

To accomplish this bit of camera magic, Savini made a duplicate of Spinell's head out of a stiff rubber material, dressed with glass eyes and makeup.

Inside, Savini put meat and fake blood.

The frightfully realistic head was then attached to a dummy. The revived mannequins surround their killer and tear off his head.

Blood spurts everywhere!

A fitting end for a mortal monster!

## **savini slays self!**

Possibly the most interesting death in MANIAC is when makeup artist Savini had to rig the death of actor Savini.

As the disco-goer, Savini picks up a girl and they drive off.

The maniac stalks them. Finds them. Aims a shotgun point-blank at the window.

He blows Savini's head to smithereens!

For this sequence, Savini made another model head, which he destroyed himself with the shotgun blast.

Savini boasts that these are the most realistic makeup effects he's ever done, unlike anything the screen has ever before seen.

Who would disagree with a man who can tear heads from bodies?





After killing over and over and over...scalping and dismembering his innocent young victims, the maniac meets his richly deserved fate. His head is torn from his body, it's safe to say his days are numbered...unless the film's a hit and there's a sequel!



The tables have turned (along with the audience's stomach), and one of the victims of the maniac stands back to view her headwrenching handiwork. Justice is served, the dead can rest in peace.

## maniac 2?

MANIAC was filmed on a low, low budget, though its makers are quick to point out that this did not impair their creativity on film.

"In fact," Judd Hamilton points out, "I think the lack of gloss gives us a gritty, shadowy, realistic look."

Director Lustig agrees, saying that realism was his goal in making the movie.

One of the four songs sung in the film is called "Goin' To A Showdown." It's a perfect theme for MANIAC, as it heads for theatres along with the big-budget studio films slated for release at the same time.

Regardless, MANIAC is sure to make a bundle of money when it opens in theatres across the country, playing the larger cities this month and hitting the local theatres throughout the remainder of the spring.

Will there be a sequel?

"I think we've said a great deal about our characters and what motivates them in this film," Hamilton told us. "But everything depends on the audience. If they like MANIAC, we may look into new facets of this type of character."

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